

REMARKS

Claims 9-21 and 23-28 are pending in the application, all of which stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103. Claim 24 is hereby canceled. Claims 9-10, 23, 25-26 and 28 are hereby amended to clarify the invention and present the claims in better form for consideration on appeal. No new matter has been introduced by these amendments. Applicant respectfully traverses the claim rejections.

The undersigned appreciated the opportunity to speak with the Examiner by telephone on May 27, 2004, regarding the claims and the prior art. Based on the Examiner's thoughts expressed during that telephone conference, claims 9-10, 23, 25-26 and 28 have been amended to further clarify the claimed invention, and claim 24 has been canceled. Applicant submits that claims 9-11, 13-23, 25-26 and 28 as amended patentably define over Look in Itoh et al. Further, Applicant submits that claims 12 and 27 as amended patentably define over the combination of Look and Itoh et al. in view of Duret et al.

Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims is requested.

If the Examiner has any questions or comments, he is invited to contact the undersigned at 865-546-4305.

In the event this response is not timely filed, Applicant hereby petitions for the appropriate extension of time and requests that the fee for the extension along with any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper be charged to our Deposit Account No. 12-2355.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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5/28/04
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